Transport facilities in rural areas

†2902. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are still more than 40 per cent of such rural areas where adequate transport facilities are not available; and

(b) if so, what scheme Government propose to provide the above facility in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) According to available information, about 40% of Habitations in rural areas are still not connected by all-weather roads.

(b) Government have launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to provide all-weather road connectivity to all Unconnected Habitations with a population of 500 persons and above [250 persons in respect of Hill States of North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal and the Desert Areas as identified in the Desert Development Programme as well as the Tribal (Schedule V) Areas] by the end of the Tenth Plan period (2007).

Water quality in Gujarat

2903. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) when was the last survey done in rural Gujarat to find out the quality of drinking water of habitations affected by fluoride, salinity, iron, arsenic, nitrate etc;

(b) whether Government propose to advise the State Government to undertake fresh survey in this regard in view of adverse reports from the State; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Water quality

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

survey was made initially during 1991—94. The same was reviewed and revised by the States during 1998-99.

(b) and (c) In December 1999 State Government were again advised to carry out fresh survey of quality affected habitation. This survey is still in progress in some of the States.

Criteria for allocation of foodgrains under Food for Work Programme

2904. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains allotted to each State during 2001 and 2002 under the Food for Work Programme and the criteria for the allocation;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains allotted to each State under drought with criteria for such allocation; and

(c) whether any State Government have protested against the formula and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Food for Work Scheme was in operation for the period from January, 2001 to 31.03.2002. The Food for Work was a demand driven scheme and subsequent instalment of foodgrains was released to the affected States on submission of district-wise proposal after lifting 75% of the available foodgrains and utilizing 60% of the foodgrains already lifted and on the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture. The State-wise details of foodgrains released under the Food for Work Programme is at Statement (*See* below).

(b) The foodgrains for drought relief have been released under the Special Component of the SGRY from 1.4.2002. To provide foodgrains under the Special Component of the SGRY for taking up relief works in the drought affected areas, the Task Force set up under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister has fixed monthly requirement of every drought affected State. Releases are made accordingly after the